

the very result you are striving for, and which otherwise it will take you 25 years to attain, and which when you have attained it will not give you one-thirteenth the market that will be opened to you by the adoption of the policy of free trade with the United States. I commend this policy to the hon. the Minister of Finance. It will be a stroke of genius on his part, and obviate the difficulties which beset the delusive course the Government have adopted.

Mr. FOSTER. It would be a great Hitt!

Mr. CHARLTON. It would be a very good Hitt indeed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is the best way to Foster a market.

Mr. CHARLTON. I wish to say a few words upon a very important branch of that part of my subject, which relates to the desirability of securing access to the American markets; that is the bearing which continental free trade would have on the mineral development of our country. Last year we produced in Canada 76,330 tons of iron ore, while the production of the United States amounted to 11,300,000 tons. We exported last year from Ontario 13,534 tons of iron ore, and from the whole Dominion 13,544 tons, and the total export of ore from Ontario since 1869 has been 524,511 tons. When we compare this trade with the volume of trade for a single year from Lake Superior, we will be astounded at its small proportions. It must be borne in mind that we have enormous deposits of iron ore, mines that are accessible and easily reached by railway, at quite convenient distances from lake navigation, and it is supposed we are capable of placing an unlimited amount of ore in the American market. The shipments of ore from Lake Superior ports to Lake Erie ports last year amounted to 5,023,279 tons, and that ore was worth at the point of shipment about \$20,000,000. In its transportation about \$6,000,000 was paid for freight. That volume of ore from Lake Superior was 350 times greater than the entire export from Ontario for last year, and nine and a half times greater than the entire export from Ontario since 1869—nine and a-half times greater in one year than the whole exports of Ontario during twenty years. We have enormous quantities of ore. We have discovered west of Port Arthur the Minnesota iron range projecting into our territory, of unknown extent, which it is believed contains sufficient ore to supply the whole consumption of this continent for centuries. That ore can be easily reached, yet, under the depressing policy of this Government, we have only a beggarly showing of 15,534 tons exported from Ontario while 5,023,000 long tons have been exported from Lake Superior. From the port of Two Harbors on Lake Superior the shipments from the Vermilion mine on this range, in 1884, amounted to 62,124 tons, and reached, in 1888, 511,539 tons. There are vast possibilities for the development of this trade, but it can be developed only on the condition that the duty shall be removed, and this ore admitted to the American market free. Last year we produced 24,827 tons of pig iron, and the United States produced 6,417,000 tons. The charcoal production of Michigan was 180,000 tons. If the duty were removed we could supply the whole of that trade as advantageously as Michigan. We could produce enormous quantities of iron in Nova Scotia. I am told by men conversant with the business that there is but one point in America where iron can be produced at a cheaper rate than at Picou, and that is at Birmingham in Alabama. With free access to the American market, there is no reason why we should not see an enormous production of iron in the mines of Nova Scotia, and of charcoal iron in Ontario, where the timber is contiguous to the ore, and the iron can be cheaply manufactured.

In coal we produced 2,368,891 tons last year, while the United States produced 116,049,604 tons of anthracite and bituminous. We exported from Nova Scotia to the

United States, 92,176 tons. Now, when I look at the position of Nova Scotia mines, they being the only coal mines on the Atlantic seaboard, being the most favorably situated for supplying every port on that seaboard,—when I look at the position of these mines, I am astonished that the exports should be but 92,000 tons in one year. The New England States require, according to a rough estimate, 4,000,000 tons of bituminous coal a year, and New York requires a large quantity also. Were these duties removed, there is no doubt that Nova Scotia could sell to the New England States and New York three million tons, or thirty times the amount of the present export. There cannot be any doubt that an enormous development of the coal business of Nova Scotia would result from the removal of these duties.

Then, with regard to copper, we have many mines of copper in this country, but many of them are not large enough to warrant the erection of smelting works, and copper mine owners tell me in every case that it would be of great importance if they could ship their copper to the American market. At present, they are charged five cents per pound duty on the copper contained in their ores.

Then there is the question of salt. We have in the Lake Haron basin probably an extent of 1,200 square miles of a salt district producing the best salt on this continent. The product in 1887 was 425,000 barrels, while the product in Michigan was 3,900,000 barrels. Were that market open to our producers, and were the duty on coal slack removed, there is no reason whatever why we should not compete with the Michigan producer, or share with him the enormous product of 3,900,000 barrels a year.

Then, as to building stone, we have at various points in Ontario marble, granite, freestone, and sandstone of the most excellent quality. At Nepigon Bay, on Lake Superior, there are immense quarries of freestone of a quality which stands the test of fire and frost better than any freestone in the market. We have mountains of marble. The Commission visited one marble quarry near Sault Ste. Marie, which was close to navigation, where vessels could load the stone without difficulty. It was 5,000 feet wide, and 50 feet high, and it went down into the bowels of the earth below the possibility of reckoning, and it went back into the country for several miles. But for the duty on marble, the manager told us that he could do a very large trade in that stone, and would, if the duty were removed, erect a mill for sawing and polishing that would employ 300 men. In 1887, the United States produced \$25,000,000 of building stone and marble, while Canada produced only \$558,491 worth. The exports of Canada to the United States of stone amounted to \$65,300, of which Ontario exported \$21,224. There was the beggarly amount of \$21,000 worth of stone of all kinds exported to the United States from Ontario, as compared with the produce in the United States of \$25,000,000 worth. The quarries of Ontario are so situated that marble, granite, freestone and sandstone could be exported, if it were not for the duties, at the least possible cost to Chicago with its 900,000 inhabitants, to Milwaukee, Detroit, Cleveland, and Buffalo—all first-class cities which are using great quantities of stone in construction every year; and we, with the facilities for conveying that stone by water, combined with the superior quality of our stone could defy competition but for these duties, though, as a matter of fact, we only exported this small amount of \$21,000 worth. Then, as to brick, cement, lime, and so on, Canada produced in 1887 \$1,633,525, while the United States produced \$75,661,000. Of this we exported \$238,625, of which Ontario exported \$21,217. There is a great chance of development in this trade, and we have just as good a chance for reaching these great cities with this class of production as we have with stone, provided the duties were removed, and we could extend our communication with more distant parts of the United States by means of the Erie Canal and other means